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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing isocyanates comprising preparing a phosgene [have] having a content of bromine or iodine or a mixture thereof in molecular or bound form of less than 50 ppm reacting an amine or a mixture of two or more amines with the phosgene [containing less than 50 ppm of bromine or iodine or their mixtures in molecular or bound form] and thereby forming an isocyanate.

2. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the phosgene contains less than 25 ppm of bromine or iodine or mixtures thereof in molecular or bound form.

3. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

4. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

6. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

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11. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

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12. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

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13. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

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14. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

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15. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

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16. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

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17. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric or atmospheric pressure.

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18. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

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19. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)